



MULLIN'S NOTES

The Official Newsletter of the 19th Assembly District



JUNE 2007

Journey to Tanforan



Assemblymember Gene Mullin says a few words of reflection at the former site of the Tanforan Assembly Center.

Photo by Mark Nagales

As part of the 65th Anniversary of the Opening of the Tanforan Assembly Center, and the signing of the Executive Order 9066, that forcibly removed all persons of Japanese ancestry from their homes and to internment camps, I joined an estimated thousand people at the Tanforan Shopping Center to remember the individuals who were incarcerated there.

Tanforan was created in 1899 as a racetrack and served in that capacity until 1964. However, during the months of April through October of 1942, the race track was temporarily used as a detention center for nearly 8,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry. The Tanforan

Assembly Center was one of 15 assembly centers created on the west coast to detain Japanese Americans until more permanent facilities could be built.

Today, Tanforan is a large shopping mall, where shoppers and many of the surrounding residents have little or no knowledge of what transpired 65 years ago.

I was honored to say a few words of reflection and to take part in a groundbreaking ceremony for a garden that will commemorate the Japanese American experience at Tanforan and to educate future generations about this important chapter of history.

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ASSEMBLY SESSION SCHEDULE

The Assembly session schedule for July 2–6, 2007 is as follows:

June 29 No Floor Session.
No Check-in Session.

July 2 Check-in Session.
The Desk will be open from 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Please contact Nancy Miller about the hours of check-in session if needed.

July 3 Check-in Session and Floor Session upon call of the Speaker

July 4 HOLIDAY:
Independence Day

July 5 Floor Session at 12 noon*

July 6 Floor Session upon call of the Speaker

* The time of session may change



Photo by Russell Collins Stiger

Assemblymember Mullin during Assembly Floor Session.

Senate Committee Passes State Teachers' Retirement Fund Legislation

Assembly Bill 789, authored by Assemblymember Gene Mullin, recently passed out of the Senate Public Employment and Retirement Committee by a 3 to 1 vote. AB 789 provides a state payment schedule for paying court ordered costs regarding contributions to the State Teachers' Retirement Fund.

In 2003, the state enacted Senate Bill 20 of the Second Extraordinary Session to avoid a \$500 million contribution to the Supplemental

Benefit Maintenance Account in the State Teacher's Retirement Fund. The California Retired Teachers Association (CRTA) and the State Teacher's Retirement System (STRS) are litigating against the state on this issue, and the state has lost the initial court ruling. When the Court acts on the state appeal, if STRS and CRTA are successful, the state will be obligated to immediately pay upwards of \$650-\$700 million. The state has a structural budget deficit and such a pay-

ment will create a significant problem for funding other programs in the state budget.

"The recipients are mostly elderly retired women teachers who rely on modest pensions for their essential needs," Mullin said. "This sends an important signal to prevent future borrowing from otherwise stable state funds to assist the state to balance the 2007-08 and 2008-09 state budgets."

Assembly Bill 789 will now be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Spotlight on the Intern

As a former Government teacher, I understand the valuable experience a student can gain from interning in a legislative office. It gives a student first-hand knowledge of how their government works and provides them practical experience related to their studies or career interests. Ms. Vivian Shao has greatly contributed to my office and I have asked her to write about her experience as an intern. —ASSEMBLYMEMBER GENE MULLIN

VIVIAN SHAO
LEGISLATIVE INTERN

This internship at Assemblymember Gene Mullin's District Office has given me a personal perspective on the California State Legislature. I had always had a slight interest in politics, but this internship has fully developed that curiosity. At first, I was given small tasks that included sorting emails, filing papers, and drafting letters. While performing all the tasks, I was able to expand my knowledge on the legislative process.

When I would enter constituent stances on legislative bills, I would read more about them. Gradually, I became more informed about each bill trying to become law. Then one day when I was reading an article about a bill, I felt like I understood the legislative language

that the reporters were using.

Since I have started, the staff has welcomed me with open arms and I always look forward to coming to work. I have learned the critical steps it takes to pass a bill and the different legislative committees that review them. Whether it has been the staff or the occasional strongly-opinionated constituent, they have taught me something new or opened my perspective on politics. This experience has positively impacted me mentally and socially. I would encourage any student to intern for Assemblymember Gene Mullin.

If you know a student who would benefit from interning in my office, please feel free to contact me. Our office is always looking for energetic and dedicated students.

Free Health Services for Uninsured and Under-Insured Women and Children

Neighbors in Health

Saturday, July 28, 2007 9am–1pm

Kaiser Permanente, Daly City Medical Offices

395 Hickey Blvd., Daly City

Information: (415) 808-4333 or nih@uwba.org

Free Pediatric Checkup and Immunizations for

Youth: Full physical checkup for children 18 and younger. Medical providers will provide back-to-school checkups, immunizations, health education, sports physicals, vision screenings, dental screenings, safety tips, nutrition advice and more. Please bring any immunization records and any medications currently being taken.

Free Women's Health Screenings: Receive a full physical exam.

Sign Up for No and Low Cost Insurance: Sign up for San Mateo County's no cost/low-cost insurance plans available for children. Please bring with you the following documents to see if your children qualify:

- * Proof of San Mateo County residency (utility bill, rental agreement, or driver's license)
- * Proof of income (recent pay stub, 2006 federal tax return, or letter from charitable organization)
- * Proof of your child's age (birth or baptism, or child's social security card)

This free event is sponsored by United Way of Bay Area and Kaiser Permanent. For more information about the no cost and low cost insurance, please call the San Mateo County Children's Health Initiative at (650) 573-3595.

OFFICE OF ASSEMBLYMEMBER GENE MULLIN

Staff Roster

Capitol Staff

Sara Ramirez

Chief of Staff

Darci Sears

Legislative Director

Steve Panages

Legislative Aide

Alisia Nantze

Scheduler

Juan Cisneros

Receptionist

District Staff

Craig Donnelly

District Director

Sarah Phelps

Field Representative

Mark Nagales

Field Representative

Virginia Kroger

Receptionist/Scheduler

Education Committee Staff

Gerry Shelton

Chief Consultant

Marisol Avina

Consultant

Misty Feusahrens

Consultant

Sophia Kim

Consultant

Francie Rupert

Committee Secretary

More FasTrak Lanes Coming to Bay Area Toll Bridges

Starting in July, more cash lanes will be converted to FasTrak-only lanes on state-owned bridges in the Bay Area (Antioch, Benicia - Martinez, Carquinez, Dumbarton, Richmond - San Rafael, San Francisco - Oakland Bay, and San Mateo - Hayward Bridges).

As part of the FasTrak Strategic Plan adopted by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Caltrans to

improve traffic flow and overall toll plaza efficiency by getting more drivers to pay tolls electronically via FasTrak. Since these lanes can handle about three times as many vehicles per hour as cash lanes, it will help ease congestion. New signage and pavement markings will direct drivers to the correct lanes at each toll plaza.

We encourage drivers to sign up for FasTrak to avoid possible delays in the cash

lanes. There are no fees to open or maintain a FasTrak account. Customers who pick up a FasTrak transponder at selected Costco and Safeway locations during the month of July and August will receive up to \$10 in free tolls. For a complete list of Costco and Safeway locations where FasTrak transponders are available, to sign up online, or learn more information, please visit www.511.org

HOW TO CONTACT US

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For scheduling inquiries, email virginia.kroger@asm.ca.gov for District Events or alisia.nantze@asm.ca.gov for Capitol Events. Include the date, time, and purpose of the event.

ASSEMBLYMEMBER GENE MULLIN *Committees*

Standing Committees: Education (Chair) • Budget • Budget Subcommittee #2 – Education Finance • Budget Subcommittee #4 – State Administration • Housing and Community Development • Public Employees, Retirement & Social Security • Water Parks and Wildlife

Select Committee: Select Committee on Biotechnology (Chair)



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